

HOBBY

Bandwagon

Vol. 5— AUGUST, 1950

15c



(SHANK PHOTO)

Group of members attending Circus Historical Society Convention
in Chicago view old Sparks and Gentry-Patterson
wagons at Chicago Fair.

HOBBY

Bandwagon

122 South Main Street
Camden, Ohio

AUGUST, 1950

Vol. 5

No. 7

HARRY M. SIMPSON
Editor - Publisher

15c a single copy.
\$1.00 a year in U. S. A.

Display advertising rates sent upon application.

Permission to copy articles in this Magazine must be secured from both the author and publisher.

Circus Photos

FROM ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Many from the Wm. Koford Collection

Partial List Now Ready

SHANK PHOTOS

Clarence R. Shank
Member of CHS and CFA
Camden, Ohio

HOBBY - BANDWAGON, published monthly by Harry M. Simpson, Camden, Ohio. Subscription: \$1.00 per year in U.S.A., 15c a single copy. AUG., 1950, Vol. 5, No. 6. Entered as second-class matter at the post office in Camden, Ohio, under the act of March 3, 1879.

The Publisher Says



The Fifth Annual Convention of the Circus Historical Society this month at Chicago was in every way a success and everyone enjoyed their three-day stay in Chicago, however, there were many members who failed to attend . . . this was their loss. No member of this or any other organization can fully enjoy their membership unless they have visited a convention . . . ask those who never miss one. I fully realize that many circumstances make it impossible for some to attend, but when it is possible, make it a point to attend . . . you won't be sorry.

It is indeed a pleasure to issue this month's Bandwagon with so many convention photographs. This is the first full coverage we have had since the Jamestown, N. Y., convention in 1947. Clarence Shank, official photographer, did a grand job and was very prompt in handing this office over fifty 1950 convention photographs, then came the job of choosing a representative group of photos for this issue. They were all superb, so with the help of a few taken by your editor we are able to give you convention photographs immediately after the convention. Good work, Clarence, and keep it up.

Those visiting Chicago soon must attend the Circus performance at the Chicago Fair. They give four performances a day and it is well worth your time.

Sincerely,
HARRY M. SIMPSON

C.H.S. FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION IS A SUCCESS AT CHICAGO, ILL.

CIRCUS AND LIBRARY EXHIBIT MAIN FEATURES

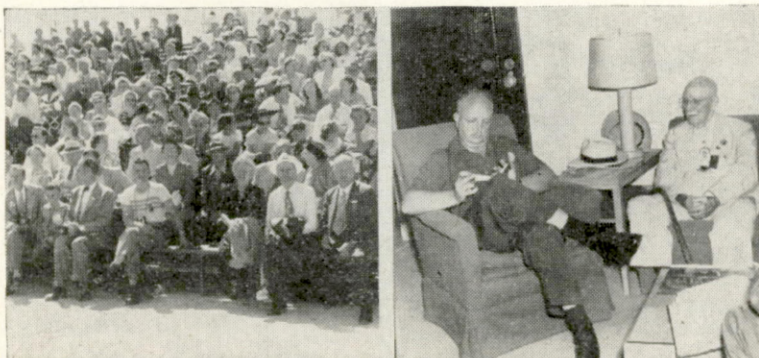
An excellent circus program at the Chicago Fair Sunday, Aug. 6th, climaxed the Fifth Annual Circus Historical Society National Convention held at the Palmer House in Chicago.

Like past conventions, this convention proved highly successful and all enjoyed their three day visit to the "Windy City." An exhibit at Chicago Public Library, business meeting, banquet, Memorial services, circus and circus movies featured the events during convention.

Convention opened Friday with a visit to the Chicago Public Library to view the marvelous collection of Walter C. Scholl, leading collector of Chicago and of the Society. The collection was displayed in a fine manner under the supervision of Mrs. Samuel V. Buchanan, librarian, who proved a perfect host to all visitors. The exhibit will be on display throughout August and has already brought many visitors to the Library. The remainder of the day was spent "putting it up and taking it down" at the convention room at the Palmer House.

The business meeting was held Saturday afternoon and was graciously conducted by our most capable President Bette Leonard. Letters read included those from Lightner Publishing Co., Joseph T. Bradbury; John Sullivan, curator of the Ringling Museum of American Circus, Bill Kasiska, Chalmer Condon and John Heidl. Pearl Reeder, editor of the Lightner Publishing Co., extended an invitation to hold a convention at their Museum in St. Augustine, Fla. John Sullivan extended an invitation to hold a convention at Sarasota, Fla. Joseph T. Bradbury and Tom Parkinson brought up the question of the Society owning a circus wagon, this was discussed and it is quite possible that the CHS will have a circus wagon in a museum soon . . . this will be reported at a later date. Dr. E. L. Cooper of Wichita, Kansas, who had been invited as guest speaker, wired that it would be impossible to attend convention.

SNAPSHOTS OF CONVENTION . . .



C.H.S. FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION—Cont'd

Exhibits included 1/4-inch scale model circus wagons of Franklin Mead of Galesburg, Ill., Circus Paintings of Ray Wolf of Milwaukee, Wisc., large circus photos of Clarence Shank, official photographer of the convention as well as many scrap books, photo albums and items brought by the members.

Prior to the meeting President Bette Leonard was presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Fred Bailey Thompson, author of "Under the Big Top" and other books and magazine articles.

Saturday night the members and guests enjoyed a banquet held at the Palmer House. As in past years, Dr. H. H. Conley, former president of the Circus Fans Association of America, donated a door prize. This years prize, a Courier & Ives print of the Albino Family beautifully framed was won by M. G. Gorrow of Appleton, Wisc. The banquet was followed by colored circus movies shown by Harry M. Simpson.

Those attending the convention and banquet included Bette Leonard, Pres. of CHS; Robert C. King, Sec'y of CHS; Harry M. Simpson, Editor of Bandwagon; Rev. Arthur Isenberg, CHS Chaplain; Fred Bailey Thompson, Clarence Shank, Ranny Isenberg, Mr. and Mrs. John VanMatre, Sylvia VanMatre, Bette VanMatre, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wolfe, Walter C. Scholl, Franklin Mead, Chas. H. "Dad" White, M. G. Gorrow, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Conley, Mr. and Mrs. Fay Reed, Murray Guy, Harry Pratt, Tom Parkinson of the Billboard, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Linden, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel V. Buchanan, Nat Green, Chicago representative of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, John Harrop, Edna Dee Curtis, former star of the Big Top and Harry Atwell, Worlds Greatest Circus photographer. Many others visited the convention rooms but failed to register.

Booklets on the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Sarasota, Fla., were distributed to all present through the courtesy of John L. Sullivan, curator of the Museum of the American Circus at Sarasota.

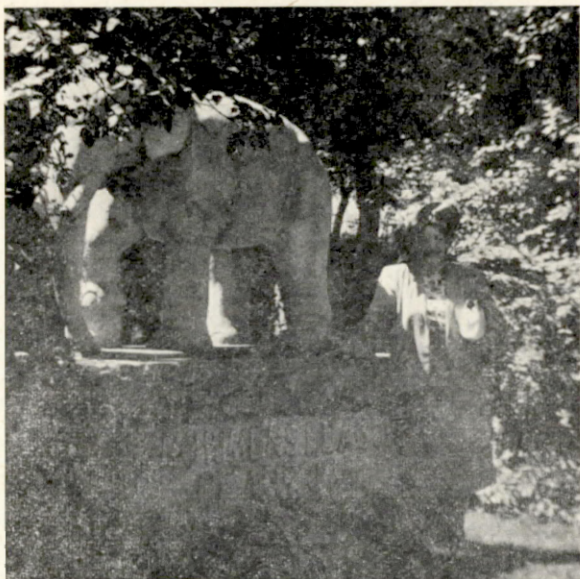
Chas. H. "Dad" White, famed lion trainer with P. T. Barnum and a favorite among members of the Society was present and again was featured in newspaper accounts of the convention. Murray Guy, former sharp shooter with the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show was also present and added to the convention. Newspaper space was very generous for a large city and the convention received numerous stories on the convention and the Walter C. Scholl exhibit at library. An illustrated article by Mrs. Samuel Buchanan appeared in the magazine "This Week In Chicago" in regards to the Scholl exhibit.

Registration and details was handled by the Society's hard working secretary, Robert C. King.

The convention committee included Robert C. King, Tom Parkinson and Walter C. Scholl. All did a grand job, especially Tom Parkinson, of the Billboard, who handled arrangements for Memorial Services and the visit to Chicago Fair.

Memorial Services were held Sunday morning at Showman's Rest in Woodlawn Cemetery in Memory of the 68 who lost their lives in the Hagenbeck-Wallace train wreck at Gary, Ind., in 1918. Services were conducted by Rev. Arthur V. Isenberg, chaplain of the Circus Historical Society. A wreath was presented by Bette Leonard, president of the Society.

C.H.S. FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION—Cont'd



President Bette Leonard at Showmen's Rest

Sunday afternoon, members visited the Chicago Fair where they viewed the three circus wagons used last year in the Railroad Fair Pageant. The wagons are still in good condition and were placed on the midway for the purpose of taking pictures . . . these wagons attracted much attention from Fair visitors. Members caught the 3 o'clock performance of the Circus which is an everyday attraction at the Fair . . . this Circus presents a fine program of outstanding performers and is a must for all Chicago visitors. CHS members were given special seats at the circus through the courtesy of Sam Levy, Jr., manager of the Chicago Fair Circus.

Following the Circus came the part dreaded by all members who attend CHS conventions—saying "Goodbye" and parting for the four corners of U.S.A. All will agree that it was a grand convention and will look forward to meeting again in 1951.

SNAPSHOTS OF CONVENTION . . .



CIRCUS FOLK HONOR THEIR DEPARTED

Baraboo, Wis., July 14, 1950—In an atmosphere of serenity and with a profound spirit of humility, executives and some of the personnel of the MILLS BROS. CIRCUS, local relatives of showfolks, Circus Fans, and townfolks united in paying homage to showdom's deceased.

The impressive twilight Showmen's Memorial Service was held at six o'clock on Friday evening, July 14, in Baraboo's beautiful cemeteries, Walnut Hill and St. Joseph's, where the assemblage honored the showmen who are at rest there and elsewhere.

The site for the program was the gravesides of Otto Ringling and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Ringling, Sr., on the hilltop overlooking the peaceful city of Baraboo in the valley—and Devil's Lake bluffs in the distance.

Judge Adolph Andro, former Mayor of Baraboo, acting as Master of Ceremonies, in an introductory statement noted that many folks, who had trouped out of this town with the Ringling, Forepaugh-Sells, and Gollmar Shows, return even now to visit—and some requested to be buried here to be with people they knew so well. The MILLS BROS. CIRCUS concert band under the direction of Prof. Robert A. Mills played the processional and recessional marches. The Rev. Maurice E. Jones of the Presbyterian Church, Baraboo, offered the invocation, which was followed by a solo, "JUST AS I AM," by Clinton W. Platt. Chief White Eagle asked Divine Guidance for AMERICA and blessings on our Dead. In memoriam, Capt. Bert Wallace, Equestrian Director, silently presented a red rose in remembrance of the brothers and troupers of showdom's deceased; Princess White Cloud, mother of Chief White Eagle, cousin of Will Rogers (and oldest lady with the show), offered a lilly in a tribute to the Sisters and Women of Showdom Deceased; and Mr. Jack Mills, Manager, placed forget-me-nots on the graves in memory of all the show people interred in Baraboo and elsewhere. Thereupon, Judge Andro intoned the names of those showmen buried in the cemeteries.

Otto Ringling, Albert and Lou Ringling, Henry Ringling, Sr., Augustus G. Ringling, Benjamin F. Gollmar, Charles A. Gollmar, Jake Gollmar, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bullard, Claud Gollmar, Willis Gollmar, Charles Hampton, Joseph Hitchinson, Edward V. Hocum, Charles Rooney, Boss Hostler; Charles Rooney, Equestrian; Joan Rooney, Mike Rooney, H. "Sid." Rubien, Frank Schadel, Robert Taylor, James R. Whalen.

Laying of a wreath expressing a kindly thought of all showmen and circus friends gone—but not forgotten was by Fred C. E. Welk, Baraboo's oldest former trouper—on behalf of the CHS and CFA. Rev. Doc Waddell, Pastor of the Canvas Church with the Mills Bros. Circus, delivered an inspiring memorial address, "Cheers and Tears," in part as follows: "This is hallowed ground. We pause at the Ringling family cemetery lot. The Ringling brothers' father and mother are buried here. Memories of 'Dad' Ringling's harness shop and 'Ma' Ringling's perfect housekeeping press sweetly. The Ringling home was an old-fashioned place of security, comfort, love, and

CIRCUS FOLK HONOR THEIR DEPARTED—Cont'd)

peace, with an old-fashioned door, and an old-fashioned latch, and an old-fashioned latch string that was always out. Nearby is the grave of that beloved soul, Al. Ringling. Uncle Al was beyond the shadow of a doubt the greatest of equestrian directors. His 'Field of the Cloth of Gold' was an opening spectacle that has never been excelled, never equalled. Otto Ringling looked after the financiering. John, Alf. T., and Charles controlled course and direction. Baraboo is the real monument to their memory. Marvelous, the Ringlings! To me, personally, Uncle Al Ringling was a loyal friend. His charity knew no bounds. Never did he refuse my appeal for help to care for our ill or dying. Always would come back to me his loving words, in query form, 'What does the poor one need?' And he responded liberally." "ABIDE WITH ME," a solo by Lewis E. Gerald, and benediction by Rev. Karl F. Koch of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, concluded the service.

Among those seen (or noted) were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mills and daughter, Arlene, Rev. Doc. Waddell, Fred Stafford, Robert A. Mills and band, Capt. and Mrs. Bert Wallace, Chief White Eagle, and his mother, Princess White Cloud, Princess Red Wing, Mr. and Mrs. Jack La Pearl, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Brock, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Rupp, Larry Benner, Clyde and Vera Rinaldo, Walter and Alta Byers, Myrna Karsey, Don Howland, Mrs. Ida Ringling and Henry Ringling, Jr., (widow and son of Henry Ringling, Sr.), Bert Gollmar, (son of Jake Gollmar), Ray Hocum (son of Edward V. Hocum and grandson of Jake Gollmar), Henry Moeller (cousin of the Ringlings and Gollmars), Mrs. Wayne Case (granddaughter of Frank Bullard), Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Scott and Paul Luckey, former troupers, State Senator and Mrs. Clifford 'Tiny' Krueger of Merrill, George Finnegan and John Newhouse of Madison, and—from Baraboo—Bill Kasiska and mother, Mrs. Mary J. Kasiska, August Moulton, F. C. E. Welk, B. R. Leighton, and a host of local folks.

SNAPSHOTS OF CONVENTION . . .



Illness made it impossible for Clyde Wixom, co-director of Division One to attend the convention at Chicago. Clyde, who never misses a convention or division meeting was missed by all present and we hope for a speedy recovery.

Enroute to Chicago, your editor paid the Slout Players a visit at Goodland, Indiana. Many Bandwagon readers have followed this tent show through the Billboard and are aware of the fact this is the only present day show presenting "Uncle Toms Cabin." Mr. and Mrs. L. Verne Slout and son Bill are congenial hosts, interested in the circus, and have a fine show. It is interesting to note the number of circus fans who have visited this show.

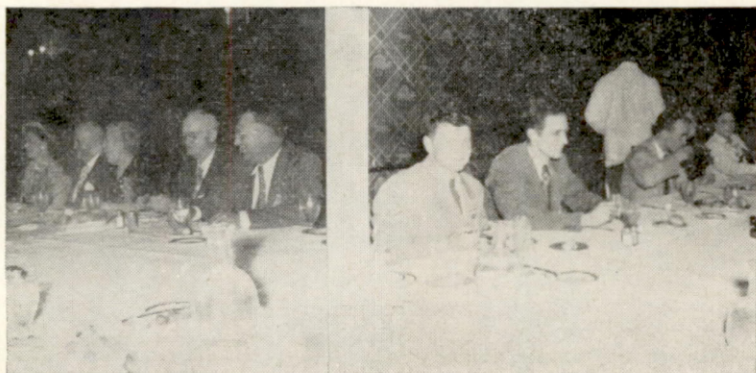
I LOVE ELEPHANTS, by Frank Whitbeck, appears in the READERS DIGEST for July, 1950. It was reprinted from the TOLEDO (Ohio) BLADE of April 23, 190.

Fred H. Lohman, of Richmond, Ind., reports that August issue of Woman's Home Companion has an article on Concellos and that the Aug. 12th issue of Saturday Evening Post carries an article on the 1950 RB&BB Circus.

ANDREW WACHTER APPOINTED DIRECTOR

Andrew Wachter, of Greensboro, N. C., owner of the former SILVAN-DREW Motorized Circus, collector and one of the finest circus model builders, has been appointed director of Division 4. Mr. Wachter replaces Eddie Jackson who now resides in Ohio.

SNAPSHOTS OF CONVENTION...



The July 9th issue of RHODE ISLANDER MAGAZINE section of the Providence, R.I., Sunday Journal carries a ten page feature on the Hunt Brothers Circus. The forty-two photographs and text make up one of the finest newspaper articles on a circus published in many years. The article was prepared by writer Robert L. Wheeler and photographer H. Raymond Ball, both staff men of that newspaper.

COLLIERS of August 12th carries an article "Big Top: Pearly Leads the Parade" by B. F. Sylvester. One illustration in color. About the U. S. Tent & Awning Co. and Pearly Houser, now tent maker and for many years boss canvassman with leading circuses.

July 1st issue of the SATURDAY EVENING POST carries a fiction story entitled "Every Kid's a Dreamer" by D. H. Johnson.

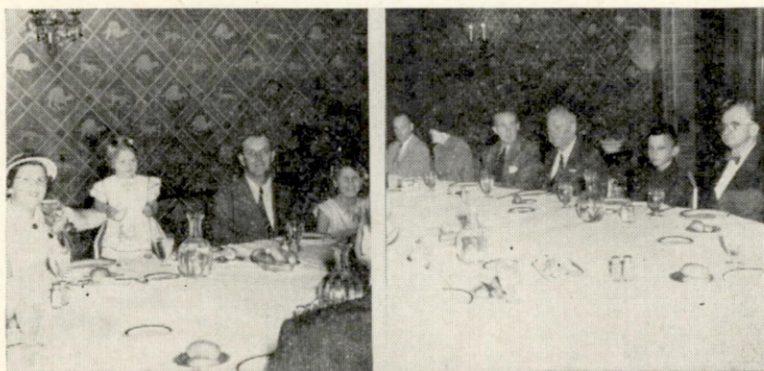
July 11th issue of Pottstown (Pa.) Mercury has an illustrated front page story of Archie Royer.

July issue of TRACKS official magazine of the C. & O. Railway carries a fiction story "Day at the Circus" by Forest Hull.

August issue of TRAINS published by the Kalmbach Publishing Co. carries a short article entitled "Big ticket for Big Top" giving data on a train haul of the RB&BB Circus from Newark to Westbury costing \$238.00 per mile in comparison to the average cost of \$22.00 per mile.

August issue of HOBBIES has a fine article on famed clown Herman Joseph. The article has three illustrations and is by A. Morton Smith.

SNAPSHOTS OF CONVENTION . . .



St. Paul 5, Minn.
July 12, 1950

Mr. Harry M. Simpson,
Editor of the Bandwagon,
Camden, Ohio.

Dear Harry:

Being an old Algona, Kossuth County, Iowa, boy, I have always been very much interested in that grand old Iowa Circus family (the Ortons) and their shows.

The more I talked to circus people about the Ortons, the more confused I became.

I had often thought of writing or going to Adel to try and get straightened out on the subject.

Thanks to that wonderful article in the Bandwagon by J. Lon Sampson. It helped me to understand the Orton family better.

I saw Miles Orton (when world's champion bareback rider) do a carrying act on the old W. W. Cole Show way back (I guess) about 1884.

The last time I saw the Orton Bros. Circus was at Sanborn, Minn., in 1907. I believe R. Z. was in advance. I helped him unload his paste, bucket, brush and paper from the baggage car.

He told me he was Miles' brother and that Miles had died the year before (I believe). As I remember R. Z. was 70 or more at that time. The show had one ring but it had the funniest clown act I ever saw and I have seen most of them in the past 74 years.

The two following articles should be published in the next Bandwagon so as to keep the Orton family record straight. The following is taken from B. F. Reed's (my father) History of Kossuth County, Iowa, Vol. 1, page 312:

"The historic first circus (in Algona) pitched its tent June 16th, 1868. The name of the aggregation was 'Orton Bros. Egyptian Caravan and South American Circus.' The parade was led by Orton Bros. Female Cornet Circus Band, which was drawn by ten dapple gray horses."

Fred P. Pitzers Oct., 1930, Circus scrap book gives the following names as members of the above band, they are Mrs. Chas. Schaefer, Des Moines; Mrs. Mattie Lougmire, Mrs. J. W. Russell, Adel; Miss Irene Orton, Ortonville; Mrs. Hattie Mann, W. H. Lehman and (12 year old) R. Z. Orton.

Also in the July, 1929, issue of Pitzers magazine says Miles Orton died at Key West, but no date was given.

The following taken from Vol. 1, page 374, of the above history: "An elephant for an attorney's fee." Geo. E. Clarke was the only lawyer who ever got an elephant for a court fee. In the summer of 1868 Orton Bros. brought to the county seat (Algona) the first circus. Miles Orton, one of the brothers, later owned the show alone. He rented his show to R. W. Weldon who wanted to make a southern trip with it during the winter of 1884-5.

When the show came north in the Spring the name "Miles Orton" on the cages, wagons and cars had been painted out and that of Weldon substituted. Orton, after failing to get possession, came to Algona and consulted Clarke and Call. At that time the show was out in the Dakota's, but dates had been made at points to reach which would necessitate the show's coming across the river into (Sioux City) Iowa.

CIRCUS BOOKS

THE PAGEL STORY. South African Circus.....\$3.50
WE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CIRCUS. Num. illus. 5.00
ELEPHANT TALES. 300 pp. 164 fine photos..... 2.50
CIRCUS IDEALS. Just published. Num. illus. 1.25

Many others. Lists on request.

THE GUNROOM BOOKSELLERS
NORTH CASTINE, MAINE

A close watch was kept on Weldon's movements. Finally it was learned that the show was coming through Sioux City. Clarke was there with a full supply of officers when the circus train arrived and took possession of the whole circus equipment. A series of legal battles followed between attaching creditors, those who had been having possession and the owner.

The papers in that region were filled with the accounts of these suits.

Out of the wreck Clarke and Call got away with an elephant and about twenty horses and some other stock. Orton took most of the animals recovered back to his home. Geo. E. Clark kept for his own use a white horse. He also brought home with him the elephant which he kept in the basement barn during the winter. Heating it with a stove.

After caring for his pet for several months he disposed of it and never again expressed a desire to have another elephant on his hands."

I remember the horses and the elephant. Was often at the elephant barn. Every time the keeper would go away that old bull would start taking the barn apart.

Yours truly,

FAY F. REED, CHS 171.

412 S. Warwick St.

WILLIAM N. PURTILL DIES

As we go to press, notice is received of the death of William N. Purtill, of Westerly, R. I. We have received a very nice write-up from his son, John Purtill, but space will not permit publishing it this month. However, it will be published in its entirety in the next issue of the Bandwagon. The regrets of The Circus Historical Society go to his family.

MRS. NONA SHANK DIES

Mrs. Nona Shank, mother of Clarence Shank of Camden, Ohio, died August 22. All members of The Circus Historical Society extend their regrets to Clarence. Mrs. Shank had long been in business in Camden, and Clarence was associated with her in the store.

The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Founded in 1939

HARRY M. SIMPSON-----EDITOR

OFFICERS

BETTE LEONARD-----PRESIDENT
440 N. Dodge, Wichita, Kans.
MAURICE ALLAIRE-----VICE-PRES.
24 Vermont Ave., Portland 5, Maine
WALTER PIETSCHMANN-----TREAS.
7337 Third St., Apt. 202, Detroit, Mich.
ROBERT C. KING-----SEC'Y
P. O. Box 235, Richmond, Ind.
WILLIAM GREEN-----ELECTION COMM.
312 N. C St., Washington, Kans.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Smith
Walter Tyson
Arthur Stensvard
John VanMatre

DIRECTORS

Div. 1—Mich., Ohio, Ind.—Chalmer Con-
don, Clyde Wixom.
Div. 2—Maine, Vt., N. H., Mass., R. I.,
Conn., Dela., Md.—John Crowley, Allen
Wescott.
Div. 3—N. J., N. Y., Pa., Va., W. Va., Ky.—
John VanMatre, Charles B. Kistler.
Div. 4—N. C., S. C., Ga., Ala., Fla., Miss.,
Tenn., Ark., La.—Andrew Wachter.
Div. 5—Wisc., Ill., Minn., Iowa, Mo.—Wil-
liam Kasiska, J. A. Havirland.
Div. 6—N. Dak., S. Dak., Nebr., Kansas,
Okla., Texas—Joe Fleming.
Div. 7—Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Colo., N. M.,
Nevada, Utah, Ariz.—Marvin Kreiger, Jr.
Div. 8—Wash., Oregon, Calif.—Joseph
Shields.
Div. 9—Canada—Edward Cripps.
Div. 10—South America and England—E.
Titus.

CIRCUS PHOTOS

Both old and new. Parades, tableaux,
wagons, trains, horses, tents, side
show, personnel. Many shows. Big,
free list upon request.

ROBERT SAMS

BIRMINGHAM 8, ALA.

MINSTREL SHOW PHOTOS

SEND FOR LIST

A. H. GILGER

576 S. Roys Ave., Columbus, Ohio

CIRCUSIANA

BOUGHT and SOLD

Visit my stock room at 116 W. Washington St., Syracuse.
Open every day until October 1st.



C. Spencer Chambers

P. O. Box 722

SYRACUSE 1, N. Y., U. S. A.

Charles M. Simmons
442 S. Fifth St.
Pocatello, Idaho

350
C14707